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01-17

January 22, 2001

For Immediate Release:

EIU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MOURNS ONE OF ITS OWN

CHARLESTON – Members of Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees observed a moment of silence in memory of one of their own Monday.

Carl P. Koerner, Jr., of Effingham, died Saturday, Jan. 20, following a battle with lung cancer. The 74-year-old founder and chairman of Koerner Distributor, Inc., of Effingham-Carterville-Centralia-New Baden, was appointed by Gov. Jim Edgar as a member of Eastern's first independent Board of Trustees in 1996. Three years later, in 1999, he was named chair -- a post he held until his death.

"The Eastern Illinois University campus community and the EIU Board of Trustees are deeply saddened by the passing of Board Chair Carl Koerner," said Eastern President Carol D. Surles. "We extend our sincere sympathies to his family and friends. He will be sorely missed.

"Mr. Koerner served the board with great distinction. He was genuinely respected by his fellow trustees, the university administrators who worked most closely with him and all those who came in contact with him. All of his decisions as board chair were made in the best interest of the university," she added.

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Vice Chair Nate Anderson, who presided over Monday's meeting, considered it especially timely and fitting when trustees unanimously voted to approve nearly \$3.5 million in construction costs for a new EIU Food Court – a project, he said, that had been of particular interest and concern to Mr. Koerner.

Lou Hencken, vice president for student affairs, told the board that Mr. Koerner had been advised last week that bids had been received and that continuing progress towards the Food Court was being made. The news pleased Mr. Koerner who, according to Hencken, "liked students and considered (the Food Court) to be an important project for the university."

Cautioning the board that it would be an "aggressive construction schedule," Hencken cited Oct. 15, 2001, as the new completion date for the Food Court, set to be built in the northwest corner of the main floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Original plans had the Food Court primarily located under the bridge of the union; however, this location proved to be too costly in terms of construction.

The \$3,431,548 cost summary was broken down as follows: general construction, \$1,549,100 (Johnco Construction, Inc., Morton); plumbing construction, \$173,800 (A & R Mechanical, Urbana); electrical construction, \$272,700 (Bodine Electric of Decatur); ventilation construction, \$544,980 (T.A. Brinkoetter & Sons, Inc., Decatur); heating construction, \$290,000 (TNT Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Urbana); fire protection construction, \$17,500 (National Fire Suppression, Maryland Heights, Mo.); kitchen equipment, \$420,061 (Schweppe, Inc., Lombard); and a 5 percent contingency, \$163,407.

Once completed, the EIU Food Court will house a Rotation Station, intended to include various food items on a rotating basis; a Chick-fil-A (grilled and fried chicken products); and Subway (made-to-order sandwiches). A TCBY (coffee/bakery/yogurt), considered to be part of

the Food Court concept, will be located near the Union Bookstore.

Chick-fil-A and Subway, which have been operating during the past several months in the soon-to-be renovated space, have been temporarily relocated to the Rathskeller, located in the east basement of the University Union.

In other action, trustees approved an approximate 3 percent increase in rates for both University Apartments and University Court. Graduate students and families living in University Apartments are expected to see an increase of \$9 to \$11 per month with rents ranging from \$313 to \$354 (which include utilities). The per-semester-cost for upperclassmen living in University Court apartments will range from \$1,890 to \$2,565 after increases of \$55 to \$75, and include all furnishings, trash pickup, cable television, and Internet and telephone service.

The issue of room and board rate increases for residence hall and Greek Court residents was tabled until a later date, as was a vote on a change in Board *Regulations* regarding public comment at the end of each BOT meeting and bid approval for sprinkler systems design services in several EIU building.

Trustees also approved a recommendation to extend a multi-year contract to Richard McDuffie, EIU athletic director, for the period July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004. McDuffie came to Eastern in March 1997.